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[0005]

In VRRP, hello packet is exchanged between the routers at specific intervals to check whether each router is in normal condition, and it is called health check. Also, the hello packet contains priority of the router that transmitted the hello packet, and each router compares the priority with the priority of its own in order to determine which router is an active router (master router) that should process the packet. That is, a router being normal and highest in priority is autonomously set as an active router, and the other routers are used as standby routers (backup routers).

[0062]

In step S16, priority of other router in hello packet is compared with priority calculated in step S14. When the calculated priority of the router of its own is higher (YES in step S18), the router of its own is shifted to active mode with respect to virtual router ID (step S20). In this way, packet from a host having its virtual router ID is handled by the router and transmitted through a proper passage.